

# **ONCOLOGICAL OUTCOMES, PATTERNS OF FAILURE AND PROGNOSTIC PREDICTORS OF EARLY ORAL CAVITY CANCER TREATED WITH SURGERY ALONE : A RETROSPECTIVE REVIEW**

## **BACKGROUND:**

The primary treatment modality for most early oral cancer stages I and II is surgery. The purpose of the present study is to evaluate the long term oncological outcomes, patterns of failure, and prognostic predictors of recurrence in patients of early oral squamous cell cancer (Stage I and II) treated by surgery alone.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS :**

We conducted a retrospective study from duration 2012-2017. Patients with previously untreated, pathologically proven squamous cell carcinoma of the oral cavity, pathological stage T1-2N0M0 who underwent surgery were included in the study. Patient who received any neo adjuvant treatment, post operative adjuvant treatment, having history of previous head and neck cancer were excluded from the study.

## **RESULTS:**

113 patients were included in the study. Median follow up was 60 months. Median age was 54.5 years. 95.6% patients had history of tobacco consumption , mostly smokeless form. 25 patients were stage I and 88 patients were stage II . Common subsite were buccal mucosa (38 patients) followed by tongue (28 patients) followed by lower gingivo buccal sulcus (18 patients) . There were 31 recurrences and 24 deaths. Using Kaplan - Meier method, 3 and 5 year overall survival was 92% and 71.8% respectively and recurrence free survival was 77.9% and 69.4% respectively. Perineural invasion and grade of differentiation affected recurrence free survival (p value <0.05). None of the adverse pathological features had significant association with overall survival. Perineural invasion showed closest association with overall survival (p value=0.163).

## **CONCLUSION:**

More than one-fourth early oral SCC patients treated by surgery alone developed recurrence. A poorly differentiated histology and perineural invasion were the risk factors influencing recurrence. Postoperative adjuvant therapy may be considered in patients in presence of these risk factors.